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RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VINO.

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AGRICULTURE.

ADDRESS

TO THE

PRINCE GEORGE'S

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

December 8, 1821.

It is my painful duty to announce the death of our worthy President—with the ardour of youth he served his country in the Indian war, with General Wayne, and turned his sword into a plough share after the peace. My feeble efforts are not required to draw his amiable character; that has been ably done by one who knew him best and felt the most. He is gone to reap the rich harvest of his goodness and usefulness; let us more strenuously exert ourselves, that our Institution which he so actively promoted, may, notwithstanding, continue to advance.

Fearing that Dr. Dangerfield's illness would prevent his attendance at our regular meeting, on the 1st November, I had prepared an address, which with your approval, I will now read.

I have already recommended the planting of trees, and with urgency solicit your attention to the subject; the inconsiderate levelling of woods by slaves, who leave the full grown trees to decay, that they may avoid the labour of splitting, has caused such destruction of our forests, that a complaint of scarcity of timber is now prevalent throughout the country. Were we to cut down full grown trees, room would be given for the expansion of young ones; and were we to remove crooked saplings, the straight ones would grow more rapidly. A neighbour of mine, by adopting this plan, has accelerated the growth of his young trees in a surprising manner; and will have an exhaustless supply of timber. When we consider the quantity of wood consumed for family use and for negro quarters, where there is a most lavish waste of it; when we consider how much is applied to fence rails and to buildings; and when we consider, also, how much is destroyed in smoking tobacco, &c. we ought to introduce the greatest economy. Would not the introduction of stoves into negroes' quarters, be a great saving? as they could only burn sticks and refuse boughs, and could not lay on a large pile of wood to burn all night. Many of you are now even compelled to purchase estates, merely to obtain wood. Thus you are at a great expense; and if to this you add the expense of hauling from a distance, and think how soon even these woods will be exhausted, you ought to be seriously uneasy at the prospect before you. It is urged that labour can be spared in winter—but suppose, that instead of letting your cattle browse and destroy your underwood, you soiled them—and employed your hands in collecting leaves and in attending to your barn yard, what an advantageous change would be effected. Perhaps it is a fair estimate, that every sapling will be worth five dollars in twenty years. A member has promised me some detailed calculations on this subject.

May not the increased sickness we experience in summer, and its augmented malignity which we have of late years experienced, be attributable to the great diminution of our woods? In one of my first addresses, I gave a hint to Botanists, to induce them to investigate the salubrity or insalubrity of different trees, by mentioning an anecdote of two eminent physicians in India. One of them told a healthy man to carry a note to the other physician, who lived at a

distance, and enjoined the man to sleep every night on the road under a tamarind tree; the exhalations from which are deemed unhealthy; the man arrived very sick—the physician perused the contents of the note, which were, "the bearer's illness baffles my skill, and therefore I send him to you, who are so successful in practice." The physician after making every inquiry, sent him back with the following note, and ordered him to sleep every night under a banyan tree: "You will find the bearer recovered."

The medicinal virtues of Jesuit's bark were discovered, by a Jesuit's observing that the water of a pond in which quinquina trees had fallen, cured the sick. We use the bark of cherry, of dogwood and of sassafras, and were more attention paid to our woods, we shall no doubt find, that Providence has given us the means to purify circumambient air, as well as to remedy disorders.—Whatever we smell, we inhale, and as health depends upon the air we breathe, surely we ought to attend to the vegetation around us, that imperceptibly operates upon health, without which, nothing is valuable.

I wish State governments would, with the advice of medical men, plant particular trees round Hospitals, Jails and Poor-houses, to try their effects on the occupiers. I wish, also, they would establish experimental farms; the expense will be trifling, and the advantages might be incalculable.—Birds select the healthiest trees to roost upon, as if conscious of consequences. In the interior of our country, landholders pride themselves in the quantity of cleared land, and build their dwelling houses in open fields, without considering that trees intercept the mephitic vapours arising from decaying vegetables exposed to the sun; and that the shade is beneficial; and that they may attract lightning from their houses.

In my spring address, I submitted to you, some suggestions to retrieve us from poverty, and I now venture some to prevent sickness. These will not, I hope, be deemed incompatible with the object of our association, although not decidedly agricultural.—*Fe-fa's* and *ca-ca's*, bleeding and physicking, are become so frequent, that we are bound to consider of every means to diminish them. How, indeed, can agriculture prosper, if labourers, carpenters and blacksmiths, are alternately under charge of the Lawyer and Doctor. Even in recommending attention to our own vegetation for medicinal purposes, I have a squinting at home supplies, in preference to foreign drugs: had I a starling like Sterne's, I would teach it to exclaim, *home market! home market! home market!* The internal tonnage of China, is stated to exceed all the tonnage of the commercial world.

In respect to Agriculture, so much is now communicated, that we are almost perplexed by discordant recommendations on hasty experiments, I shall therefore be very cautious how I impart any of my own. I cannot, however, refrain from mentioning one to you. Having been defeated this year in my endeavours to raise melons, notwithstanding many applications of professed preventives of the destructive fly. I became very inquisitive for a remedy—and too late, a friend informed me, that by scattering dust every morning when the dew was on the leaves, he saved his melons. After this, finding that my turnips were rapidly destroying by the fly, I immediately burnt sods, according to the Irish and English

* By an extract from Dr. Barton's Medical Journal, we learn that the effluvia from the stems, leaves and flowers of the *datura stramonium*, commonly called Jamestown weed, are suspected to be productive of intermittent fever—it is a strong narcotic, and it is spreading rapidly.

method, described in the American Farmer, and scattered the ashes on every drill. The effect was instantaneous—the fly did no more injury; and the ashes proved an excellent manure. A more cheap, easy and safe experiment cannot be suggested; and I have the consolation to know, that should it fail, the manure will repay the labor.

I think we have not sufficiently cultivated Palma Christi—we seem only to use its oil medicinally. In Asia it is relied upon for lamp oil—combined with pot ash, it makes soft soap, and with the addition of sea salt, it makes hard soap. In the interior, where there is much pot ash and salt, soap perhaps may become cheaper, and even an article of exportation.—Should successful experiments be produced by this intimation, it will be a proof that our Society, the oldest in Maryland, has been of service to its country.

I indulged the hope, that ere this we should be more numerous, and that our contributions would enable us to give premiums annually; but many are deterred from joining us, under the idea that our Society is a select one, requiring strict attention, and also some written communication from every member. In other countries, gentlemen, although not farmers, and even ladies subscribe, merely to promote useful reports and exhibitions of productions, and also to excite emulation. As money is so easily raised for prize cups at horse races, surely contributions will be cheerfully bestowed for our premiums, if recommended by zealous, active members. I recommend that we resolve to meet only once a year, and in some place not too distant from the City of Washington, that we may have an annual concourse of agricultural amateurs, and ploughing matches, and exhibitions of manufactures—which every one may witness. Thus we may cause a fair and have an instructive and exhilarating festival to perpetuate our institution.

In China, the Emperor once in the year at an appointed day, takes the plough, and after dwelling upon the products of nature increased by art, prays to nature's God.

"In ancient times, the sacred plow employ'd
The kings and awful fathers of mankind—
Ye sons of freedom venerate the plough.
"Nor ye who live
In luxury and ease, in pomp and pride,
Think these lost themes unworthy of your ear—
Such themes as these the rural Maro sung,
To wide imperial Rome, in the full height
Of elegance and taste, by Greece refin'd.

Thompson.

This was written for our meeting on the 1st of November, but our lamented President's illness, caused an adjournment—since that, the wind and cold have banished our endemic, and let us indulge the hope, that this winter we shall obtain from the wisdom of Congress, a remedy for our dearth of money. Thanks to our Statesmen, we are not oppressed by taxation, which makes the burden of the speeches at Bockham. Surely our Government will devise some financial means to promote the Potomac Canal, and one from the Chesapeake to the Delaware—but let us hope that the general government will no longer overlook these important objects, every where claiming attention, through this extensive Continent, Mr. Calhoun, when the bonus of the United States Bank of 1,500,000, presented the means, made a most luminous speech on public improvement.* May we be gratified

* Canals and arterial roads ought to be exclusively under the direction of government. I could men-

by eloquence on the same subject, with similar expanded views of the general interest, at this Congress. Methinks you exhibit fear lest I should expatiate on this favourite theme, whilst you are tired and wish to be otherways regaled. I am done.

THOMAS LAW.

December, 7th, 1821.

P. S. Since closing this, I have received from Mr. Skinner, some Bene (or Sessamum) oil and seed for our Society. Mr. John McQueen, of Savannah, Georgia, sent it to Mr. Forman, of Savinton, Cecil County, who desired them to be sent to us. We shall no doubt return our thanks to these gentlemen, and I hope those who receive the seed, will report to us the result at our next meeting.† I avail myself of this opportunity to express my acknowledgments to Mr. Skinner, for the kind attention he has shewn in distributing seeds, in addition to the profitable seminal ideas he imparts in his American Farmer.

tion a canal attempted merely to consult local interests, and to obtain subscribers thereby, although not in the best and shortest rout. Roads may be shortened to save expense of time, of horses and of men. That to New Orleans from Alexandria to Culpepper, may have a saving of about 20 miles in 70, (as I am informed). Calculate the saving of only 500 miles daily, for 100 years. No time should be lost in fixing straight routs; for towns will be established in permanently advantageous situations. If a general system be postponed between them, the circuitous routs to towns in out-of-the-way situations, will be perpetuated, and posterity will always complain of the negligence and want of forethought of existing legislators.

† I have, also, some white poppy seed from Mr. Skinner, the cultivation of which I have before strongly urged, as opium is so dear, and often adulterated; and as the oil not being narcotic, is a fine salad oil, and preferable to all other oils for white paint.

COTTON.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Charleston, December 2, 1821.

Sir,—Your paper of the 9th ult. contains a letter from a gentleman who signs himself Agricola, Junr., requesting information upon the subject of Cotton Planting, and an appeal from you to your friends in the South. We have among us, many experienced and scientific planters who could do ample justice to the subject; but I am sorry to say, too much apathy and indifference prevail among them, to make public the result of their Agricultural experiments, and what little escapes, is confined altogether to a small circle of their friends in the neighbourhood.

Upon the subject of cotton planting, such a diversity of opinion exists, that it becomes difficult to ascertain which is the best mode to adopt. Actuated by a wish that every planter would make public, the plan of his choice, through the medium of a newspaper, I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you an account of the mode of attendance and management of my cotton crops, as practised for many years.—I will therefore commence with

Nature of Soil.

If prime high land, of which the original growth has been oak and hickory has been laying out in a pasture, and has not been cultivated for a number of years, it is consequently more or less bound, and ought to be ploughed up, or turned with a hoe. Cotton having a tap root, and a number of fibrous ramifications, requires the land to be made mellow, or the plant will not thrive. When the land is naturally loose the turning up may be avoided, and the sooner the ground is listed the better. In land just cut down,

it would be advisable to plant corn and peas, the first year, it will most probably bring a large crop of both, which it would not do in cotton from the quantity of sour juice constantly oozing out from the roots of the trees recently cut down, which is unfavourable to the growth of cotton, for the plants cannot thrive where any sourness prevails. Corn and peas will live and flourish where cotton will not even grow. One advantage of planting it the first year in corn and peas is, that the planter will have more time to spare in lopping up the trees, to which he ought to bend all his attention and force, that it may be prepared for cotton the next year. The land also gets freed of many impurities, unfavourable to the growth of cotton.

Mode of Planting.

In prime land, the beds or ridges ought to be five feet apart, and as high and broad as possible, particularly if the land is low, which must be well drained, otherwise it will be always in a sobby state, creating sourness by the influence of the sun operating upon it; in which case the plant always assumes a sickly appearance—the contrary effect takes place, where the land is well drained. Another disadvantage arising from the want of good draining, is that the cotton invariably takes the rust. A prime negro can ridge or bed up for his day's work, one quarter and a half quarter of an acre, and make the bed as high as requisite. The planting in holes at eighteen inches apart, is preferable to drilling, as the thinning can be made with more regularity, and the labour less; when the cotton is young, you will have only the spots where the cotton stands, to hand-weed, which in drilling, must be done throughout the whole length of the bed.

Time of Planting.

The best time for planting, is the latter end of March, or as soon after as you think the weather suitable. Cotton planted earlier, is apt to be much hurt in its first coming up, by the unsettled weather, which often takes place in that month. Cotton planted too early, and once injured by frost or cold raw dews, will never come to that early perfection, that it would have done, had it been planted later, and not injured at all.

Quantity of Seed.

One bushel to the acre is generally planted; and in digging the hole, let the negro be instructed to make two chops with his hoe, that there may be plenty of room for scattering the seed, and in the thinning a choice of distance: leave at the last thinning the two plants that are to remain, at as great a distance as possible, to give air and promote growth.

First Thinning.

When the seed is well up, and the plants about 2 inches high, let each negro be provided with a short bat or stick, leaving his hoe at home, to break what clods may be found on the cotton bed; pull up from the centre of each hole, as many plants as you can hold between your three fingers and thumb, leaving about ten or a dozen standing; let the negro be directed to stir with his hand, the earth around the remaining plants, in the same manner as is done with cabbage plants, each negro can go through five or six quarter acres per day. The difference will be immediately perceptible, the plants assuming a lively, vigorous appearance, particularly if favoured shortly after, with a small shower of rain. Nothing promotes the growth of cotton in its young state more than early thinning and stirring the earth around the roots with the hand.

Second Thinning.

In your second thinning, which ought to be as soon as you can possibly get to it, the plants now growing apace, leave about seven or eight in each hole, observing the same process of stirring and putting dirt around the roots with the hand. In this thinning, the hoe can be made use of to haul down the cotton bed, if grassy, and to break up what clods may have been felt.

Caution against Worms.

Should there be any apprehension, however, of worms attacking the cotton, which is very common at this stage of the plant, I would strongly recommend extreme caution in thinning, or if the worm be actually among the cotton, not to thin it at all, but to supply immediately what is cut down, and to make free use of the hoe, in keeping the field clean of grass, and by all means to attend to putting dirt around the roots, which tends so much to invigorate, and hasten them out of the way of the worm.

Third Thinning.

The season favourable, and now advanced, the plants, well grown, and the danger of the ravages of the worm removed; I would recommend to make a general and last thinning, leaving in each hole two plants, as wide apart as possible, and this being your second hoeing, the negro must be directed to haul up the bed, and to continue doing so in all the future hoeings, covering the grass completely. Attention to keeping the fields clean of grass, is of the utmost consequence in its early stage, once neglected in that state it never assumes that lively, vigorous appearance it would have done, had it been well attended. Continue hoeing while there is grass in the field, and be particularly careful in your last hoeing, that the grass be completely destroyed, for should it get up again, while you are picking cotton, the bottom pods will rot, and it is then too late to use the hoe.—Another bad effect arises from neglecting your last hoeing, it is actually sowing seeds which will come up in the next year, and make your fields very grassy. A field well attended, has every advantage, the plants continue to flourish, putting out constantly fresh blossoms, and bringing to greater and earlier perfection, those already put out. Neglect produces a contrary effect, and impresses the planter with an idea that the land is faulty, when the cause springs from himself.

Picking of Cotton.

The picking of cotton generally taking place about the beginning of September, it will be necessary to have each negro provided with an Osnaburg bag, which is slung over his neck or shoulders, for the purpose of putting the cotton in as he picks it in the field, and likewise in an Osnaburg sheet about the size of a blanket, which is placed in a convenient spot near to where he is picking, and as his small bag gets full, he empties into the sheet, and carries home in the afternoon. In picking cotton, the negro must be directed to guard as much as possible, against a small leaf, which when dry, often intermixes with the cotton, and never can be got rid of; thereby injuring the sale.

The general average in a good opening is from 45 to 50 weight each negro per day. Your next object of consideration is your scaffolds, on which your cotton is to be spread, when brought from the field, I would recommend their being unconnected with, but contiguous to your cotton house, and to be made 4 feet wide, each scaffold, so that a negro can with ease reach over, and turn the cotton; in case of rain, it is easily thrown into the cotton house. Spread your cotton as thin as possible that the sun may penetrate the quicker, it then requires but one sun.

Your gin house where the cotton is ginn'd, I would strongly recommend to be remote from your cotton house, or any other building. The many dreadful accidents of fire that may arise from the least carelessness or inattention are too obvious to say much about. It would be advisable to keep only as much cotton in the gin house as you are going to gin that day.

Much success has attended the cultivation of cotton on River Swamps, particularly the green seed, or short staple, which can be with more certainty calculated upon, from its early maturity, the frost cannot affect it. Some years ago I planted 45 acres of my reclaimed Marsh in black seed, which yielded 41½ bags of 300 weight each. The next year an early frost in October destroyed my prospects, and not more than 10 or 12 bags, were made from the same land, most of which, was of a very inferior quality

both in staple and colour. The green seed cotton having crept in among the planters upon the sea board, induced me among others to venture 115 acres, in my Marsh land; the season was favourable and the frost kept off to a late period. I sent to market 149 bags which by weight averaged 503lbs of saw-ginn'd cotton to every acre. I continued its cultivation, until with in a few years, when the disease called the rot made its appearance, and has risen to a very alarming degree. Many attempts have been made to discover its origin, and means devised to arrest the ravages of this destructive plague, but as yet, as far as I have heard, all have failed. Among the various experiments I caused a great many small fires to be made upon stumps in various parts of my fields, and a sufficient quantity of powdered roll brimstone put thereon, creating a disagreeable suffocating smell; so great was the smoke and vapours arising, that had it been an animal, it must, I think, have perished.—These fires, or rather smokes were regularly ordered to be made up every evening at sun down, and persisted in for a length of time, but all to no purpose, so great was the devastation, that from the same 115 acres, only 13 bags were produced. This falling off, and no hope of cure, obliged me to resort to the Highland, where I have been planting black seed ever since.

The treatment I observed with regard to attendance in my marsh land, was the same as recommended above on highland, with the exception, that about 3 weeks previous to setting my crop, the land was ridged or bedded up and immediately flooded deep enough to destroy vegetation, and kept so until the day before I was ready to plant, when the water was returned to the river, leaving the land, with every particle of vegetation destroyed, and exhibiting a jet black appearance, when I commenced my operations in setting the crop.

If you think the substance of the above communication worth insertion in your paper, and that it will throw one ray of light upon the subject, and be at all serviceable to Agricola, junr. or other planters, it will afford me pleasure to suppose that I have been instrumental in furnishing it.

I remain,

very respectfully,

your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. ROWAND.

P. S. That I may not mislead, I beg leave to observe, that when the tide lands are a stiff clay, they must be pulverised with a plough; flooding such land, would be altogether improper, and the very object of pulverization being destroyed by it.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

COTTON.

NOVEMBER 24, 1821.

Mr. Skinner,

In Number 33, third volume, of your paper, Agricola, jr. solicits information on the subject of the culture of cotton. Almost every plantation in our country has a system of its own—hence the difficulty of entering into details. I have attempted a hasty sketch of the most important objects of attention in this culture; and should these hints be of any use to your correspondent, or to others, it will afford me pleasure. In this culture, as in most others, different soils require different modes of preparation.

In light soils the plough only is used in the formation of the "beds" or "ridges," which generally consist of from three to five furrows thrown together.

For this purpose the common shovel plough is in most general use, as it also is in the cultivation of the crop. My manner of preparation, however, is somewhat different. My beds consist of five furrow slices, the first of which is thrown nearly in the centre of the interval between the old beds, (whether of cotton or corn, if the distance suits) with Wood's patent plough,

followed in the furrow by a narrow shovel fourteen inches long. Two furrow slices on each side are thrown to the first, with the same plough, followed in every furrow by the narrow shovel. On light soils this is deemed sufficient, the intervals being left, until the crop receives its first ploughing. On stiff clay soils, this would be hazardous—the five furrows are run, however, in the same manner as in light soils, the intervals are also ploughed at the same time: it is not, however, material in ploughing these, to go to the same depth—the whole is then drawn together and shaped by the hoe. This is to guard against the danger of a drought in the spring, which would so bake the land, as to render the breaking of the middles extremely difficult. These observations apply to the preparation of lands that have been in cultivation the year preceding. With those that have been at rest, and on which there is a large quantity of vegetable matter, I would recommend a different treatment.

The preparation on these should commence as early as the 20th of August. Deep furrows should be run at the distance it is contemplated to have the beds: all the grass, &c. should be drawn with the hoe into them; the whole surface should then be ploughed, and followed by the hoe, so as to form the beds immediately over the vegetable matter. It is important to commence and to finish this operation early, to insure the complete rotting of the matter thus drawn into the furrows, before the cotton plant begins to shoot its long tap root into the earth.—Should circumstances delay the preparations until after Christmas, in clay soils particularly, it is then best, I think, to turn the vegetable matter under with the plough, and form the beds with the hoe. The distance between the beds will depend of course upon the quality of the soil. On lands capable of producing from 10 to 15 bushels of corn, they should be, about 4 ft. apart, from 15 to 25 bu's—5 feet, from 30 to 50 bu's—6 ft., 50 to 70 bu—7 ft.; and 8 ft. I deem sufficient space for any land, if well thinned in the drill. It is important to be in readiness to plant, so soon as all danger of frost is over; one week in the first of the season, is worth a fortnight in the latter part of it. I generally plant the first open weather after the 20th March, always reserving seed sufficient for replanting in case of accident. On the centre of the bed, a narrow trench is opened with the corner of a hoe, the seed dropped carefully into it, and covered with rakes, as lightly as possible, the coverers, taking care to move the rake lengthwise of the beds, to prevent the teeth removing the seed from the drill. The seed are to be rubbed, before planting, with dirt, or ashes which is better, and a moderate quantity of water, to enable the sowers to drop with regularity. The quantity of seed to the acre, depends on the lightness or stiffness of the soil; in light land from three to five bushels, in stiff from 10 to 15. So soon as the cotton begins to come up, it should be lightly drawn down with the hoe. In stiff clay soils, it is sometimes necessary to perform this operation, to enable it to come through, as it frequently happens that a heavy fall of rain, followed by hard winds, may form a crust over the seed, which, if cut on each side of the drills, the seed, in coming up, will easily throw off. The drawing down is followed by a close ploughing to the cotton; it is then carefully drawn up with the hoe, and all the loose dirt drawn to the bed. At this stage it is proper to give it its first thinning—the best and most expeditious mode of doing which, is to put a few of the most intelligent hands, to chopping it out with the hoe, immediately before those who are drawing up. A practised hand will go over four acres per day, (if the rows are not nearer than five feet,) and remove all but five or six plants, the fine dirt is then drawn carefully round these. So soon as the fourth leaf makes its appearance, it is then thinned by hand, to two stocks; when these begin to grow finely, draw all out but one. There is a great variety of opinion as it regards the proper distance in the drill; my own experience is decidedly in favor of great distance—in no land, however poor, would I have it nearer than 9 inches, and in the best low grounds from

two and a half to three feet. The cultivation of the crop depends much on the season. If dry, plough and draw dirt to the cotton, and cover the young grass; if wet, draw the grass lightly from the cotton; plough, and then earth up as early as the weather will permit. This system of ploughing and hoeing is to be continued, until the cotton becomes so large as to be injured by the plough passing through it; it must then be chopped over with the hoe until the crop is made, of which a judgment may be formed, by its beginning to open freely at the bottom. From five to seven acres is the usual crop to the hand, exclusive of corn. Ten hands could cultivate one hundred acres of cotton with ease; but if a good crop it would require twenty to pick it out. I have never planted in hills, because I think the drill has many advantages, not only in the culture of cotton, but of every other crop. The isinglass is generally deemed the best soil for the production of cotton—it is beyond a doubt the most certain; but any land that produces good corn, in a proper latitude, will produce good cotton. In low grounds a dry season is preferred, because with common industry the crop can be kept free from grass, which is all important; high lands will bear more rain, because they may be worked in all seasons. I have never seen any work on the subject of "the culture of cotton," nor do I believe such an one has been printed. I believe I have now answered all the interrogatories of Agricola, jr. and if done to his satisfaction, I shall be truly gratified.

A Short Staple Cotton Planter.

THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS.

[From the Southern Patriot, So. Ca. Sept. 1st.]

Mr. Editor,

Your paper of the 24th ult. contained a notice of the state of the weather in New York on the 16th.—Twenty years since, I was in the habit of attending to the thermometer with much more precision, than I have for some years past. About sun rise, and nine o'clock at night, generally were of the same temperature—from 13 to 2 o'clock, P. M. is, usually, the hottest time of the day; but, about 4 P. M. indicated the greatest degree of heat, during the hot months; an hour before sun rise, appears to be the coldest period of the night. If, at 9 P. M. in the fall, or spring, the mercury in an exposed situation, be at about 40°, of Fahrenheit, we may calculate upon having ice the next day, unless it becomes cloudy, or rains during the night. The day of the late eclipse, the thermometer being in a situation fully under the influence of the sun, at 7 o'clock, A. M. was up to 80 degrees. It soon began to fall, and at half past 8, stood at 70°. By 9 o'clock, it was again at 80°—half past 9, it was up to 98°; and, at five minutes before 10 o'clock, apparently the end of the eclipse, the mercury was up to 106 degrees. It became cloudy, and the instrument was removed. We have had in June rain for 10 days; in July 20 days, and in August 9 days. Some of these rains were unusually heavy, and following the rainy months of March, April and May; the crops of cotton and corn have been much injured. We have had, with the exception of a few days, a cool summer; the mercury has not exceeded 86°, and generally stood, upon the hot days we have had, at from 82° to 84°. Dr. Ramsay's opinion, that our summers are cooler than formerly, appears to be correct. But, our frosts, in the fall and spring, for some years past, have visited us, at a more unfavourable period than they usually did 20 or 30 years ago.

A COTTON PLANTER.

Sept, 1st, 1821.

For the American Farmer.

Indian Corn.

HOW TO MAKE A DOUBLE CROP ON POOR GROUND.

Plough up your ground intended for corn, in the fall of the year, as deep as you can plough it—let it lay till spring. At the opening of the spring, when

the frost is entirely out of the ground, give it a good ploughing and harrow it down. It is then in good order for preparing to plant. Take of slacked ashes, two-thirds, and of ground plaster, one-third; mix them well together, and follow the droppers, and put as much of this mixture on the seed as you can grasp in your hand, and cover it well over in the usual way. The corn will come up strong and green, and will grow off finely, and retain a strong vigorous growth and green colour, and stand the drought much better than upon the strongest land. The writer of this has tried this experiment for two years, and has tested the value of this mode of culture.—From 22 acres of very poor ground, which was entirely exhausted and worn out, he raised 130 barrels of long corn, the cob of which was much larger than the usual size. Upon the strongest land, many of the cobs contained 24 rows of seed upon a cob. It is well to remark that this same piece of ground was put in corn about three years before, and scarcely re-produced the seed. It was then sown in rye, and the crop of rye was scarcely worth cutting—it was plastered and sowed in clover, but its poverty was such that the clover was scarcely to be seen. It came up well, but not having sufficient nourishment from the soil, it died away—it was then used as a pasture until two years after, when the want of other ground, induced the writer again to try a corn crop on it, with the use of ashes and plaster combined, as before stated, and such was the crop it yielded, that his overseer and all who saw it, were astonished at the quantity produced by this experiment. To be convinced more certainly of the experiment, the writer took a field adjoining, nearly of the same quality—this field, also, having been worked upwards of forty years without the aid of manure, plaster or clover to reanimate it; was seeded in corn last summer, and may contain 25 acres; the overseer states in a letter to the writer, that he had lofted 80 barrels of corn, and supposed that he had about one half lofted, making 160 barrels of corn from 25 acres of poor old fields. This field I manured in the hill with 60 bushels of ashes from the soap boilers, and 25 bushels of plaster, all of which only cost \$10.—If for the expense of 10 dolls. in ashes and plaster, more than a double crop of corn can be raised from land otherwise laying waste, or not worth the expense of cultivation, ought not every farmer to resort to this mode of culture, in preference to planting corn on the best land, as is usually done to secure a certain crop? his best lands might then be kept in crops less exhausting. This mode of plantation will give a chance of bringing all his grounds into clover lays, by giving time for the clover to form a good cover before it is ploughed in. The writer was induced to try this experiment and risk the chance of a crop on his poorest land, rather than prematurely turn in his clover for corn, and he was thereby enabled to turn in a full crop of clover the succeeding year for a wheat crop.

G. W.

* 650 bushels.

† 800 bushels.

The preceding communication is very interesting, and the more especially as it is the result of actual practice. The Editor regrets that the writer did not attach his name, but the writing is well known to him, and he can pledge himself for the respectability and integrity of the author.

Edit. Am. Farmer.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

To Cure Bacon.

VIRGINIA, vs. BURLINGTON.

Richmond County Va.

November 24th, 1821.

MR. SKINNER:

Having seen in the 20th No. of the 3d Vol. of your American Farmer, a refusal of one, who has been specially called on to communicate his knowledge of mode of curing Burlington hams, I cannot longer re-

frain from giving such information as I possess, in curing hams according to our Virginia mode, as practised by me for many years, and which on trial I am induced to believe, will be found fully equal, if not superior, to the Burlington or even the celebrated Westphalia. This I do with pleasure having no secret to preserve, being no "trucker or trader."

My practice is as follows: first salt the pork by giving it a pretty good salting, and pack it away on boards or planks, with a slope sufficient to let the brine run off. In this situation it lies ten or twelve days, when it is taken up, and each piece wiped dry, with a coarse cloth, and to each ham is added a heaping tea spoonful of the best crystallized salt petre, by sprinkling over it, and rubbing it well in with the hand. It is then re-salted well again, and packed away on planks or boards laid horizontally, or in tight casks if you have them convenient, as it may then be an advantage to retain or preserve all the brine you can; whereas, the first brine I have found from experience to be of great injury, as it tends to putrescence and should by no means be reabsorbed by the meat laying in it after being extracted by the salt; as I conceive it to be that which produces the bugs and skippers in the meat after it has been smoked.—The time of putting on the salt petre is of much more importance than is supposed by those who have not made the trial, for if put on at the first salting, the meat is always dry, hard and too salt, but why it has this effect, I am not chymist enough to determine. On giving the meat a second salting I add to the salt as much brown sugar or molasses as will moisten or damp it, and as much of the common red pepper as will give the salt quite a red appearance. The pods are first dried before a fire or on a griddle, and then pounded tolerably fine in a mortar. The meat then lies about 5 or 6 weeks, when each piece should be rubbed well with hickory ashes, and hung up to smoke with the hock downwards, which prevents its dripping and thereby retains its juices. The Liverpool sack-salt is what I have generally used, and I think it is much to be preferred to any other.

The smoke is generally made from chips raked up from the wood pile, with a little of the dust, doated, or rotten wood with it, to prevent a blaze, or clear fire and too great a heat, saw dust of hickory or oak is still better to make the smoke, to which is added two or three pods of the red pepper each day.

After it is sufficiently smoked, which it will be in 5 or 6 weeks if regularly attended to, it is taken down and packed away in casks or boxes, with hickory ashes, covering the meat entirely with them, and between each layer is put some thin slips of laths or boards to prevent each layer of meat pressing down and touching each other, and in the course of the summer it is taken out and sunned once or twice.

If it is intended for exportation, bran is the best thing to pack it in, for shipping, especially if it is intended for a southern market. By this mode of curing, my bacon has got the reputation (by those who have eat of it,) to be equal if not superior to any they have ever tasted. But I concur with Mr. Cox, the writer in your 20th No. of the 3d Vol. That "a great deal depends upon the nature of the flesh of the several breeds of hogs" and the manner of raising and feeding. From the experience which I have had, I think a cross of one-fourth of the Chinese, on our common stock, which is a mixture of the English breed including the Parkinson, which we have amongst us, is the most delicate in flavour and taste and easier to be raised and kept fat, consuming less grain. The meat of those which are suffered to feed in the fields and woods, with a little feeding with grain until they are put up to fatten, are far superior to those which are raised in the sty, and fed on grain and slops, as is the northern custom. Their meat is much larger and coarser than ours, and may answer very well for salting and barreling up as pork, but by no means answers as well for bacon, being too coarse and strong in flavour. The manner in which our hogs are raised and fed, and their size I consider as the principal reasons why our Virginia hams have been so much approved of, both in this country and Europe. I have tried various ways to fatten hogs, af-

ter they have been put up for close fattening, but have never found any thing to equal Indian corn or corn meal; turnips, potatoes, peas, pumpkins, &c. will do very well when they are first put up, but must be left off some weeks before they are killed, in order to harden their fat, and give it a superior flavour by using Indian corn alone, with a little salt water, or a salt herring once or twice a week.

To make bacon of the most delicate flavour, the hogs should not exceed 160lb in wt. nor 21 months in age, and it is for this reason and the great economy in raising and feeding, as well as preventing their becoming mischievous and troublesome on a farm, that I approve of Col Taylor's system of killing every hog on the farm every year, that is ten months or upwards old, except the Breeders. I have followed this practice for about seven years, and have found a considerable profit in it, as hogs kept over two winters are very unprofitable, and their flesh by no means as delicate and sweet. Hogs from 10 to 21 months old, with a little more than the ordinary keep with us (which is very ordinary indeed, as we generally leave them much to prog and shift for themselves) will weigh from 120 to 180lbs. and the sweetest and most delicate flavoured hams will not be found to exceed from 10 to 15lbs in weight even of hogs of their age, and when older they are much coarser and less savoury.

These, Mr. Skinner, are my ideas, obtained from experience and thrown together in a very home-spun manner, and should they on trial be found to please the palates of others and be generally adopted by them I may be benefitted instead of injured as was apprehended by a Burlington dealer, for as I sometimes travel from home, and am fond of good bacon, I may the oftener get a cut of ham after my own mode of curing. And with very great respect, and my sincere wishes for your success in your very useful paper.

I am your most obedient,
JNO. DARBY.

SMALL SHEEP—LARGE TURNIPS AND CABBAGES—SMALL HORSES AND TULIP MADNESS IN HOLLAND.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Dear Sir,—I sent you an account the other day of a remarkable large sheep, I now send you an account of some uncommonly small. Many years ago, I was in company with Steven West, Esq. of the Wood-yard near Marlborough, father to the present general of that name—he said when he was in company with Daniel Dulany & Dr. Scott, both of Annapolis, the conversation turning on sheep, the smallness of the sheep of Shetland Isles was mentioned. Doctor Scott said they were about the size, he thought, of our sheep here. This Mr. Dulany dissented from with much emphasis. Some time after, Mr. West and Mr. Dulany were riding together, and Mr. West asked how large the Shetland sheep were—the answer was, "very small"—were they as large as that hog there? "No!" As that? "No!" For God's sake how large were they? "Why they brought two on a dish, and charged one shilling a piece for them: the captain said they imposed on us—the regular price was only 8d."

N. B. Mr. Dulany and Doctor Scott, returned from England in the war that commenced in 1755, and came north about, and had put in at one of the Shetland Isles.

I see the size of a turnip has been bandied about in the papers.

A turnip weighing 73 pounds, was raised by Jas. Ellis, of Hertfordshire, who sold it for a penny, after winning five guineas—by betting that it would weigh 73 pounds. See Old Annual Register, 1768, page 193. A cabbage weighed 92 pounds—grown by Mr. Baker, of Buntal, Leicestershire. See Lancaster's New Farmer's Calendar, 5th Edition—London, 1809, page 391.

A horse from the East Indies, was presented to the King or Queen of England, 2 feet 10 inches high—

Annual Register, 1768, page 163. A mare 27 inches high, and a horse 33 inches—Annual Register, 1765, page 117.

A gentleman offered 1500£ per annum, for two tulips, for seven years, and to return the flower or root, only retaining the increase. Annual Register, 1765, page 50, under the head, characters.

Your's respectfully.

Georgetown, D. C. Nov. 30th, 1821.

Flax Dressing Machines.

For the American Farmer.

Brighton, 29th November, 1821.

JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

Dear Sir—I observed in the American Farmer, number 27, an article requesting further information on the subject of the machine for dressing flax, stated in my 'Essay on Flax Husbandry,' to be in operation in Dutchess county, New York. My informant was the Hon. Philip J. Schuyler, of Rhinebeck, who has recently been so kind as to furnish the following facts, which he obtained from the owner of the machine: "The mill was invented by a person in Connecticut: the cost from four to five hundred dollars, and requires a two story building, of about thirty feet square. With a machine of four knives, 400 pound of flax may be finished in a day; the waste very trifling.—During the war the mill was profitable; but since, there has not been a sufficient quantity of flax raised to keep it employed but for a small part of the year."

The interest this information would otherwise excite, will undoubtedly be transferred to the machine of Messrs. Dey and Macdonald, now in operation in New York;—and I feel much gratification in being enabled to send you the following extract of a letter on the subject, which I received from Mr. Dey—dated, 26th inst.

"Many persons have seen the machine operate, and their strong prejudices have been completely overcome—I send you a copy of a certificate, signed by a number of gentlemen of the highest respectability here—some of whom I know were sceptics—but have at length yielded to the senses of sight and feeling."

CERTIFICATE.

"We were present at a trial of a newly invented machine, made for dressing flax or hem in an unrotted or unwretted state, belonging to Messrs. Anthony Dey and James Macdonald, of this city.—The machine is constructed to go by water or animal power; but on the trial was worked with facility by four men—one of the subscribers held a watch, by which it was ascertained that three ordinary lengths of flax plant, unwretted, were carried completely through the machine in less than one minute; and three lengths of hemp through, in a little more than one minute. It is estimated that when driven by the proper power, the machine will clean one ton of flax plant or hemp, wretted or unwretted in a day—and Mr. Dey exhibited and gave to each of us a sample of flax in a fine, beautiful, white state, resembling floss silk, which he estimated, from the experi-

ments he has made, may be cleaned through the machine, and reduced to its beautiful state for about two cents a pound; and he informed us that in doing it he did not make use of any other preparation, than is to be found in every farmer's house in abundance, and which was done after the flax had passed through the machine.

New-York, November, 1821.

(Signed)

J. L. OGDEN,
RICHARD VARICK,
LE RAY DE CHAUMONT,
DAVID B. OGDEN,
RUDOLPH BUNNER,
GEO. BRINCKERHOFF,
BENJAMIN L. SWAN,
GEO. GRISWOLD.

"Mr. Dey says further, "I have been more than three months past engaged in preparing my land," (*reclaimed salt marshes in New-Jersey*) "to the extent of 100 acres for a hemp and flax crop the ensuing season—you may from that circumstance judge of my views on the subject."

The prospect of a *boon* to the farmer, in some measure corresponding with that of the *cotton-gin* of the planter, is certainly very promising; and which may lead to results of incalculable importance to the rural economy of our country.

I remain, dear sir,

truly your's,

J. W. POMEROY.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

FLAX DRESSING.

ENGLISH MACHINES.—*Extract of a letter from an intelligent correspondent, in London, to Richard Peters, dated Sept. 15, 1821.*

"I write this hasty letter in answer to your last, to assure you that I will immediately call on Bundy, and send you the fullest account in my power, as to his machines, himself, or any capable maker, to suit your purpose. The small machine is perfectly effective for families; but the one which Wright made, [for the Philadelphia Society] is Mr. Bundy's second size, by your description. I have seen it at work in Bundy's manufactory; but it is complicated, and will not come into general use. You may rely on the fact, that his large machine (*water-power*) is very simple and effective and is the one which you ought to have; but the small ones are highly desirable for families.—The drawing gives you no idea of the *modus operandi*, which is the simplest imaginable.

I beg to tell you, in one word, that Bundy's flax is *not* wretted at all. But our climate is cool, and it is desirable that the flax to be broke should be in a highly dried state, so he exposes it some hours to the sun, before putting it through the machine. All flax stands to *form* its seeds, (though all hemp does not,) and therefore must be *rippled*; which is a process of pulling it by hand-falls through a toothed machine—to pull off the capsules which contain the seed; the same operation discharges the seeds from the pods; and, besides, combs out what small weeds there may be, which is so

needful, that, whether you break it wretted or try, it is not to be successfully done, if the stalks be not *exclusively* flax.

We have this year the most disastrous and defective harvest that ever was known in England. A most cold, late, and dry summer, is followed by a dreadfully wet and warm autumn. Our harvest is more than half totally spoiled, and yet on the ground this 15th of September. Markets are extraordinarily advanced."

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

The Plough.

11th mo. 27th, 1821.

Friend John S. Skinner—

I had supposed that my communication respecting the horse and plough, would excite the attention of the agricultural part of the community; but I had no idea of its becoming a subject of so much interest as it appears to be, and especially in so short a time. Since that communication was published, I have received orders for ploughs from different districts of the country, from Mass. to Georgia, with an expression of a desire to see their form, know the price, and realise their utility, designing to order for common use, if those should on trial, meet their approbation. But from divers communications, which I have received, requesting to know the prices of my improved ploughs, I presume the description of the plough has caused it to be apprehended by many, that they would come at a very high price; for some have requested me to forward ploughs to them, if the price did not exceed sums which they specified; and others say that if the prices are not too high, they would purchase. In order to satisfy those who may wish to know, I beg leave to inform them, that the price of the 9 inch plough is \$12—the 10 inch, \$14—the 11 inch, or three horse plough, \$16—and the adjusting shovel plough with two shovels, one round and one square, \$5. The materials are good, and the workmanship well done; and I have heard little or no objection to the price, on the part of those who have seen and used them.—They may cost considerably more than some other ploughs, yet I believe it to be acknowledged, that the superiority of materials and workmanship, will fully equalise the prices. Some persons have said, that they could buy ploughs of the same size, for half the money, but acknowledged at the same time, that they were not worth half so much; and that, without any reference to their operation, which alone I believe will justify me in saying, that my ploughs are cheaper than any that I have ever seen.

I have noticed in the 34th number of the American Farmer, page 272, that it is doubted, whether the method of testing by the dynamometer in my manner, could be correct. For the satisfaction of any persons that may feel doubtful, thee may assure them, the ploughs that those experiments were tried with, were all adapted to cut and turn a furrow of the same depth and width; and that it was my desire and intention to make a fair and an honest trial, let the result be what it would. Since my

communication was published, I have been favoured with a detail of most of the experiments, published in that page of the American Farmer, which gave me much satisfaction—and by comparing the operation of the Free-born ploughs, I suppose there was about 14 per cent difference in the quality of the land: that in Maryland ploughed the easiest.

GIDEON DAVIS,
Manufacturer.

Editorial Correspondence.

Kingston, Tennessee, 1st Aug. 1821

PEACH TREES—how to save.—Canal proposed.

Is it known or practised any where in your state, where peach trees are on the decline, to dig round them, and pour about half a bushel of brine out of a herring barrel on the roots?—if some of the herrings are in it, the better. It will generally restore the tree to perfect health in a short time.

For the last two or three years I have been trying occasionally to draw the attention of those concerned, to getting a Canal cut to connect the waters of the Mississippi with those of the Chesapeake—to leave the Mississippi about where the south line of this state strikes it—and then in as direct a course as can be got to the navigable waters of the Roanoke. This canal would be preferable to that of New-York. It would make Norfolk become what New-York is now, or even what she expects to become—and would add much business to your place I think.

SAMUEL MARTIN.

The saving, by transportation, by way of the Canal, from the western part of the state of New-York, to the city, is already 15 dollars in one ton of pot and pearl ashes.

Large Egg Plants.

From the Georgia Advertiser.

Augusta, November, 1821.

There was recently exhibited to us, six of the Solanum Melongena; or as it is commonly called the French Squash, or Egg Plant, which were raised in the garden of Mr. John Miller, of the Planters' Hotel, the largest of which weighed 4 pounds, and the six weighed 17 lbs. In some of the New-York papers it has been mentioned that one of these vegetables had been raised there weighing 2½ pounds, which seemed to be considered an extraordinary growth. In Mr. Miller's garden we understand there have been several gatherings of these plants which in size and weight, which fully equalled those exhibited to us. It is not within our knowledge that these plants have been raised of an equal size any where in the United States.

We are informed that Mr. Miller has had Egg Plants that were even larger than the above mentioned—some that weighed four pounds and three-

fourths: and as it has been frequently intimated to us that communications on Horticultural subjects would be very gratifying to many of our readers, we assure our correspondents, that such notices will be very thankfully received and gladly published.

Editor Am. Farmer.

From the London Farmers Journal.

REMEDY FOR RED-WATER IN OXEN.

Thorp Grange, near Great Bridge
Aug. 8th, 1821.

SIR,—Having seen, in your Journal of the 23d of last month, a Suffolk Farmer's Query on the Diseases of Cows, &c., I cannot withhold from him the following remedy for the red-water in Cows.

For a full grown short-horned cow, dissolve two pounds of Epsom salts in about one quart or three pints of boiling water, and give it to her when about new-milk warm. She should then be tied up in the house, and left to stand six or eight hours without any food, by the end of which time the salts should have operated. If they have not, give her 4 or 5 quarts of warm water, and drive her gently about during a quarter of an hour, by which time they will have operated; then give her as much warm water as she will drink, and turn her out to graze, if in summer, and the weather be dry.

My brother, J. Waistell, of West Park, near Barnard Castle, has used the above remedy for upwards of thirty years; and has not, in all that time, lost one beast by the red-water. Before he commenced using it, he almost invariably lost cattle annually in this disease. His cattle are now less frequently afflicted with it than formerly, which he attributes to his having under-drained a great part of his farm, which was wet and boggy. The above remedy was communicated to him by his relation Mr. Kendall, a cow-keeper, who, for many years, kept many cows, and occupied part of Marylebone Park at London.

It may be useful to add the following cautions:—

Be careful to use Epsom salts, and not to administer a less dose than two pounds to a full grown beast. Some persons have given much less, and have lost their beasts, in consequence of the salts failing to operate. Constipation, or binding of the belly, then ensues, with high fever, and speedy death. To a Scotch kiloe, of about 25 stones of 14 lbs give one pound and an half, and to other cattle in proportion to their sizes. These proportions have always been found effectual, if timely administered, and never known to injure any beast. As to the black water, which the Suffolk Farmer mentions, I do not find that disease to be known here; excepting that in the last, and incurable stage of the red-water, the stale becomes of a dark and blackish hue.

Should the above information prove beneficial to the Suffolk Farmer, or any other of your readers, who have valuable receipts for the cure of diseases in cattle, I trust they will, in return, be generous enough to communicate their knowledge to the public, by means of your valuable Journal. Should this hint be complied with

may send you a receipt or two for preventing the quarter-ill in calves.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant.

CHARLES WAISTELL.

"Doctors differ, and their Patients die."

RED-HOOK, November 13th, 1821.

William Coleman, Esquire.

Aware of the interest you have taken in the Scutellaria, and your indefatigable exertions to disseminate a knowledge of the virtues of that valuable plant, in nervous afflictions; I take the liberty of communicating a case which has lately occurred in my practice, in which a perfect cure has been effected by Scutellaria alone, in the short space of three weeks.—Doct. Hoffman, of the United States navy, who witnessed the case at several periods, and who will deliver this, can give you such information, respecting it, as may have fallen under his observation.

Respectfully yours, &c.

L. KING.

CASE.

Mrs. Elmendorph, aged sixty years, had about three years ago, a paralytic shock. The attack was marked with the following symptoms—sickness of the stomach, succeeded by vomiting, and a delirium which continued about twenty-four hours, when her vomiting ceased, and her reason returned; all this time she discovered a loss of sensation, and the power of voluntary motion in her extremities; connected with the above symptoms she had a violent cough. She continued in this state about eighteen months, when sensation was partially restored; but the power of voluntary motion still absent; she was also at this time, constantly afflicted with convulsive motions of her lower extremities, ankylosis, or stiffness of the joints; her fingers were drawn backward, and were immoveable, with a considerable enlargement of their joints; she had repeated sharp pains darting through her extremities; in short she was a perfect cripple, harassed with a most racking cough, which was frequently attended with discharges of blood from the lungs.

In this situation, she lingered for more than a year without any relief except partial remission of pain at times while under the influence of opium; but there was not the least prospect of her being restored to health.—About the 1st of October last, I was requested to see her, and found her labouring under the above painful symptoms.

In consequence of the absence of fever, in her case, I was induced to consider the cough spasmodic, and the affection of her extremities nervous. Having seen several reports in the Evening Post, in favour of the curative properties of scutellaria in nervous complaints, I was induced to try its effects in this case. In order to ascertain the virtues of this plant, I administered it without the addition of sulphur. She took three gills a day, fasting, of a strong decoction. For the first four days, it apparently increased the nervous irritation; she however, by entreaty, continued its use; on the

seventh day she felt a partial relief; on the ninth day the muscles of the extremities began to relax, her cough to abate, the stiffness of the joints began to become supple, she walked tolerably well, her health was generally improved and she rested without the use of opium; her appetite was much better and she increased considerably in strength. From this time, a change for the better was visible every day, and at the end of three weeks her health was so much improved, that she, who had not walked for more than a year without the aid of her cane, now had entire use of her limbs, walked quite as well as is common with persons at her age; her cough was quite relieved, and she considered herself, as I did, quite cured.

N. Y. Eve. Post.

ON THE SCULL CAP.

The following extracts from an Essay by Dr. Barton, in the Philadelphia Medical Journal, recently published, is calculated to abate the confidence which some have sanguinely entertained in the efficacy of the Scull Cap:

"Scutellaria latiflora, or Scull Cap, is an inert vegetable, in whatever form it be prepared, or in whatever manner administered. It has no effect, directly or indirectly, on the general system, or any part of it, evidenced at least by those marks of operation, which physicians and pathologists have universally agreed on as unequivocal evidences of medicinal power.

"Scull Cap evinces no activity or medicinal power, either in substance, or decoction, or infusion, or tincture! I have drank to the extent of a pint within half an hour, with impunity. In a solid form I have not only tried it and found it unavailing in hydrophobia but have no hesitation in pledging myself to administer any quantity, not offensive from mere bulk, to any number of persons willing to make the experiment, without the slightest perceptible effect discernable by the senses, or even rationally conceivable by the understanding.

"Scutellaria belongs to the same family of plants with Marjorum, Thyme, Sage, Lavender, Balm, Pennyroyal, Horehound—Rosemary, is the most powerful of the whole family.

"Scull Cap is endued with no sensible properties: It is devoid of taste or smell, except in common with every other inert plant. It has no pungency or aromatic principle. It produces no sensation in the stomach, nor head, nor brain, nor throat, nor lungs, nor liver, nor bowels. It neither affects respiration, digestion, nor any of the vital functions in the smallest degree. It has no volatile part. It is wholly and essentially inert, and consequently medically worthless."

For the American Farmer.

Mangel-Wurtzel, Fruit Trees, &c.

OXFORD, Talbot Co., Md. Dec. 5, 1821.

Dear Sir—I have made a small experiment on the culture of the Mangel-Wurtzel; and am now of the opinion that a greater weight of this vegetable, can be raised per acre, than can be produced of any other sort that I have ever tried.

The land on which I cultivated it, was in the year 1820 in Indian corn, and I gave it a light sprinkle of stable manure, before I spaded it up last March. The seeds were sown the 18th of April, about 15 inches asunder. I now send you one of the largest roots, which I beg you to accept and use for a seed plant. I find them not only fine, when chopped up, for milch cows; but before they get too large and old, they are very good for the table. You have enclosed, a certificate given of its size, &c when taken up, by some gentlemen who saw it weighed, after the top was off.

Very respectfully, &c.

JOHN WILLIS.

We, the subscribers, do hereby certify, that we have seen a Mangel-Wurtzel raised during the present year, on ground that was tilled in corn last year, which measured twenty-two inches in length, twenty-three and an half inches in circumference, and weighed fourteen pounds, two ounces, with the top trimmed off. The above Mangel-Wurtzel was raised by John Willis, Esq. of Oxford.

Given under our hands, this 5th Dec. 1821.

THOMAS WATTS,
THOMAS MARKLAND,
HUGH HUBBAL.

We rejoice to find so many proofs accumulate upon our files, of the high estimation in which farmers should hold the Mangel-Wurtzel. And we hope that it may soon gain that favor in the minds of all, to which we sincerely believe it is entitled.

Upon an acre of land, 27,878 roots might grow, at 15 inches asunder—in opposite directions; and if in weight they could all be made to equal this large root of Mr. Willis', the produce of the acre, would be 175 tons of roots! which, at 56 lbs. per bushel, would be 6,500 bushels!

We place no dependance upon these extreme calculations; they will never be realized; but they may give a spur to inquiry, and, therefore, we have made them.

It has been truly said, "that to make a great crop of corn, we must first secure a large number of plants"; and how obviously just the same remark would be, when applied to this root crop.

On one hand, we are sensible that our expectations would be disappointed, and that a profitable reliance upon labour saving implements, might be prevented, if in raising either of these crops, we should suffer the plants to grow too close to each other; and, on the contrary, we are as well satisfied that many of us might often double the product of our lands, without much additional expense, if we could be induced to bestow some practical attention, upon the value of different crops, and the most appropriate areas for the growth of such plants as we do cultivate.

We will take great care of the root which Mr. Willis, sends to us, and will distribute the seed that it may yield with no less pleasure; to that gentleman, who has thus placed us under new obligations, we beg leave to return our grateful thanks. We are rejoiced to learn that he has at length, determined to sell young FRUIT-

TREES, from his nursery, to any persons, that may apply for them; as many will now avail themselves of this opportunity, to obtain trees of several kinds of the choicest fruit.—Mr. Willis' collection has been made, chiefly by importations, during many years, and at great expense. He had originally no intention to dispose of any trees, that he might raise, and therefore he has not as many varieties as may be found in established nurseries; but such as he has are of prime fruit, he having retained none but those which are really good, and suitable to our climate. In making his collection he has succeeded far beyond his most sanguine expectations, although he has often suffered by gross deceptions, and been compelled to discard many kinds of fruit, after having bestowed great care in producing them from cuttings, not as large as goose quills, that cost him sometimes 2 or 3 dollars each.

To the excellence of his fruit, we have heard many of his neighbours frequently testify; and in terms that we should have thought extravagant, if we had not ourselves partaken of it at the house of a mutual friend. We have been credibly told, that formerly when he had no intention of selling any of his trees, he was offered from 10 to 20 dollars for some of them, and in one instance as high as 200 dollars for a single Cherry tree. In his present collection, he has 21 sorts of Pears, each of great value; 12 kinds of excellent Grapes; and in all about 130 varieties of the choicest Fruit. We will cheerfully insert a list of them, and the prices, as soon as he shall furnish the same; for in so doing, we know that we will perform a public service.

Edit. Am. Farmer.

IRON.

Every day furnishes us with some new evidence of the progress making by our enterprising citizens in the manufacture of the great staple articles of domestic consumption. We have this day had the pleasure of conversing with a gentleman of observation who has recently visited Lake Champlain, and who informs us that 23 or 24 forges are already in active operation in the counties of Essex and Clinton, on the west side of Lake Champlain, each capable of producing from 40 to 80 tons of iron annually. And that besides these Forges, there are two or three rolling and slitting mills, embracing also the manufacture of cut nails of all descriptions in sufficient quantity to supply the demand of the neighboring country, and as soon as the canal shall be completed and the public confidence in its permanency thoroughly established, other works will be constructed, and bar and sheet iron, nails and castings, will become the great articles of export from that part of the state.

Similar works are going forward with spirit on the east side of Lake Champlain, in Vermont, where bar iron and castings are likewise made in considerable quantities, at Monkton, Hinesburgh, Brandon and Timonah. Several beds of mountain iron ore have been discovered in the town of Peru, Clinton county, a short distance from the Lake, and in Elizabethtown, Essex county. These with the old ore beds at Skene's mine, at Crown Point, will

furnish inexhaustible supplies of ore, for their valuable manufactories. The bog ore at Swanton, so useful for castings, is of the richest quality, and also in great abundance.

[N. Y. Journal.]

FROM THE NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

RECEIPT FOR PRESERVING MILK.

The following method of preserving milk at sea during the longest voyage, and in the warmest climate, equally sweet as when it was first drawn from the cow, ought to be more generally known:—Provide a quantity of pint or quart bottles (new ones are perhaps the best); they must be perfectly sweet and clean, and likewise very dry before they are made use of. Instead of drawing the milk from the cow into the pail, as usual, it is to be milked into the bottles: as soon as any of them are filled sufficiently, they should be immediately well corked with the very best corks, in order to keep out the external air, and fastened tight with packthread or wire, as the corks in bottles which contain cider generally are. Then on the bottom of an iron or copper boiler spread a little straw, on that lay a row of the bottles filled with milk, with some straw betwixt each to prevent them from breaking, and so on alternately, until the boiler has got a sufficient quantity in; then fill it up with cold water. Heat the water gradually until it begins to boil; and as soon as that is perceivable, draw the fire: the bottles must remain undisturbed in the boiler until they are quite cold: then take them out and afterwards pack them in hampers, either with straw or saw dust, and stow them in the coolest part of the ship. Several years since, the writer tasted some milk on board a Swedish or Danish ship in the harbor of Liverpool, which had been carried twice to the West Indies and back to Denmark. The captain said it was milked into the bottles at Copenhagen upwards of eighteen months previous to that time; it was as sweet, or more so (we imagined,) than when first milked from the cow. The perpetual motion of the sea, in time, improves milk equally as much as it does Madeira wine.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1821.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The delay which may occur, in consequence of the number of valuable articles on our file, makes it necessary for us to acknowledge some of them.

One from Mr. Dey, on the culture of Flax, and the preparation of it with economy, of time, labour and material, by means of his newly invented machinery, is highly acceptable, and will probably be the first presented in our next number.

Our thanks are due to the friend who forwarded the several addresses to, and the proceedings of, the Worcester Agricultural Society. These addresses would all give additional value to our Journal, and we should have recorded them with particular pleasure, if they had reached us in due season in the order of their delivery—as it is, we shall take an early opportunity to publish the last one, delivered by Jonathan Russell, Esq.; and hold the others, to be inserted when a fair occasion offers.

The appearance of two articles in this number on the same subject,—*Cotton*, was accidental—not to be monotonous, one of them ought to have been deferred for the next.

We have several communications on *Hemp*—for which we owe particular thanks, as they are the offspring of our especial requests. If, on re-perusal of them, they should be found to contain matter in addition to the satisfactory memoir from W. C. Nicholas, Esq., we shall take an opportunity of spreading them before our readers.

The field culture of cabbages, as food for stock, is but partially practised, yet it is strongly advocated by some very judicious farmers—we are prompted, therefore, to beg the favour of information on the subject, as to the best kind—the time of sowing—manner of planting, cultivating, preserving, &c. &c.; and let it not offend, if we hold up the memoir of our friend Mr. M., of Albemarle, on *Tobacco*, as a model for the form of communications of this nature. Further, a very few seed of the earliest cabbage, would be acceptable—and, also, of that kind, deemed most productive and suitable to be cultivated for live stock.

Jonathan Justice, writes an essay to denounce the cruel treatment, too commonly exercised towards that noble animal, the horse. The being who does not revolt at the idea of this species of barbarity, is not to be schooled into a sense of humanity—the most pathetic appeal, passes him, as the “idle wind.”

STRAW CUTTERS.

We have seen an improved straw cutter, that has been recently constructed by Mr. Jonathan Eastman, of Baltimore; and which we understand is preferred on trial by several of our neighbours, and their workmen to any other kind of chaffer. We have seen it in operation, and were pleased with its performance: a boy worked it easily, and cut one bushel of straw in a minute. Its movements are very simple, and each part of the machine appears to be well calculated to endure a long time, and perform its work to the entire satisfaction of all who may use them.

The machine occupies but a very little space, not more, with a man to work it, than 150 cubic feet. It is substantially made, and is well calculated to cut corn-stalks and husks, as well as straw, and into several lengths, from half an inch to an inch, at the pleasure of the owner; the price we are told will be from 45 to 50\$; and in our next number we shall give a drawing of these Machines, and a full description of them.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour, last sales, at \$6—White Wheat, \$1 33 a 1 35—Red, do. \$1 30 a 1 33—New Corn, 50 a 51—old do. 58 a 59—Rye, 60 cents—Oats, 34—Bran, 18 cts. per bushel—Shorts, 23—Ship Stuff, 35—Country Pork, \$5—Eastern Shore, do. \$5 50 a 6—Marketing same as last report.

Maryland Tobacco—2 hhds. fine red, from Benedict, \$10—6 hhds. do. good quality, at \$7 50—Seconds, \$8.

Kentucky Tobacco—A few hhds. at \$6 50 and 7 50. Virginia—None.

TO FARMERS.

A single young Man, lately arrived in this country from one of the first agricultural counties in England, wishes to engage as an OVERSEER, or Conductor of a FARM in the state of Maryland, or any adjoining state—he possesses a perfect knowledge of the cultivation of land, the raising and feeding of stock, improving the breed of all kinds of domestic animals, and training such of them as are destined for the various purposes of husbandry. His terms will be moderate, and a respectable reference given as to his character and capability. A line addressed to A. B. and left at this office, will meet prompt attention. October.

SEEDS, &c.

JOS. P. CASEY, SEEDSMAN, &c.

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12 do do do Peas
12 do do do Radish Seeds
12 do do do Lettuce do
10 do do do Turnip do
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12 do of Melon and Cucumber do
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200 do of other Vegetable do
100 different sorts of Garden Implements, most of them patented.
Oak chests of polished Garden Tools, adapted for ladies.
120 Bright box English Spades, made of the best materials.
Garden Mats
Double twilled English Bags, large size.
New York Premium Ploughs
Wood's Freeborn Patent do
Corn Shellers, Box Churns
Post Augurs, Turnip Slicers
Straw Cutters, Drill Machines
Bramble Scythes, Grass Hooks
Dynameters, Lactometers
Snathes, Handles for Garden Tools
Hilling Hoes, Grass Scythes
Irish Shovels and Flexible Tubes to relieve cattle.
Canary and Rape Seeds, for birds
Shakers' Garden Seeds in boxes, all fresh and of a superior quality.

Dutch Bulbous Flower Roots,

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CASEY has for sale, a variety of other articles in his line, printed catalogues of which can be had at his store. He will exchange his Garden seeds for any sort of American Shrubs, or tree Seeds—such as, Oaks, Hickory, Walnuts, Catalpas, &c.

A Threshing Machine, made in this city—Price \$200.

Printed every Friday at \$4 per annum, for JOHN S. SKINNER, Editor, by Joseph Robinson, at the N. W. corner of Market and Belvidere-streets, Baltimore, where every description of Book and Job Printing is executed—Orders from a distance for Printing and Binding, with proper directions, promptly attended to.